

# SIERRA GLADFELTER

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## Climate Adaptation and Community Engagement Professional

Dynamic and motivated leader with 10 years of experience working collaboratively with diverse partners to deliver projects and conduct community-based research in multi-cultural environments | Confident building institutional relationships, managing projects, and facilitating stakeholder processes

### Education

**Master of Arts in Geography Graduate, Certificate in Development Studies** 2017  
University of Colorado Boulder | Boulder, CO

Thesis title: “Training Rivers, Training People: Interrogating the making of disasters and politics of response in Nepal’s lower Karnali River Basin”

**Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Minor in Geography and Urban Studies** 2012  
Temple University, Honors Program | Philadelphia, PA, *Summa Cum Laude*

### Professional Experience

**Project Manager, Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT)** March 2019–Present  
Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA

- Coordinates all aspects of [The RAFT](#), a multi-institutional, community-driven project to build the resilience of rural communities across coastal and riverine Virginia through an 18-month facilitated engagement process.
- Project management responsibilities include coordinating weekly planning calls for a tri-university core team, designing and overseeing outreach protocols to ensure equitable collaboration, conducting interviews, focus groups, and workshops with community stakeholders, facilitating monthly implementation team meetings with community leaders, and mentoring a project team of graduate and undergraduate student research assistants.

**Consultant and Project Manager** March 2020–October 2021  
Dialogue + Design Associates | Charlottesville, VA

- Managed diverse projects on environmental and economic resilience for clients across central Appalachia including the Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium, Solar Workgroup of Southwest Virginia, and Living Shoreline Collaborative.
- Project management responsibilities included agenda and meeting summary development, outreach and contact list management, tracking project tasks and action items, developing newsletter content, managing technology during online events, and facilitating small group discussions during virtual and in-person meetings.
- Conducted a regional assessment of just transition work in Central Appalachia for the Highlander Research and Education Center by analyzing 25 interviews and focus groups to write a comprehensive Key Issues Report and Final Report.

**Research Associate** August 2019–May 2020  
Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA

- Conducted data analysis on future climate scenarios and land-based mitigation interventions on a multi-institutional team of environmental scientists and earth system modelers under Dr. Deborah Lawrence.

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- Produced climatology products based on high resolution modeling of present-day, mid-century and end of century climate conditions for stakeholders in the East African Great Lakes and Ethiopia (EAGLE) region.

## **Managing Editor**

October 2018–March 2020

Pennsylvania Magazine | Camp Hill, PA

- Managed all content of this bimonthly magazine from query through production including corresponding with over 100 writers and photographers, reviewing queries, editing content, and planning future issues.

## **Development Associate**

October 2018–August 2019

Sierra Club Virginia Chapter | Richmond, VA

- Planned, organized, and oversaw all fundraising programs and activities including appeals, events, donor identification and solicitation, and donor relations in coordination with the Virginia Chapter Director.

## **Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellow**

August 2017–July 2018

United States-India Educational Foundation | New Delhi, India

- Designed qualitative research tools and conducted 200 interviews to evaluate climate adaptation in Ladakh.
- Analyzed complex data sources to write reports, case studies, and critical reviews for diverse audiences.

## **Junior Researcher**

June–August 2016

Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre | Zambia Red Cross, Lusaka, Zambia

- Researched national level climate policy and disaster management plans to inform ongoing programs.
- Evaluated barriers and opportunities for building resilience to climate change in beneficiary communities.

## **Research Associate**

January–June 2016

Institute for Social & Environmental Transition–International | Boulder, CO

- Collaborated with an interdisciplinary research team to analyze South Carolina's response to flood disasters.
- Produced a Post Event Review Capability report synthesizing qualitative interview data from 59 diverse stakeholders, including government officials, first responders, and community members.

## **Outreach and Education Coordinator**

February 2013–June 2014

Schuylkill Headwaters Association | Pottsville, PA

- Spearheaded public outreach, built strategic partnerships, and organized volunteers to implement projects
- Secured \$69,500 in grants to support diverse watershed education and community action programs, including a week-long experiential education program for students that involved working with 25 partner institutions.

## **Trainings and Certifications**

### **Collaboration with Native Nations and Tribal Consultation**

November 2021

### **Understanding Conflict and Planning for Successful Collaboration Training**

April 2021

John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution

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- Equitable Negotiation on the Coast Training** February 2021  
Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Facilitation Basics Training** July 2020  
Institute for Engagement & Negotiation
- Basic Mediation Training** January 2020  
FairField Center, VA  
Completed a 20-hour course in conflict resolution and mediation certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia.
- Mentorship Program, American Society of Adaptation Professionals** September 2019  
Completed a nine-month knowledge and skills-building professional development program, featuring a series of one-on-one and group mentoring sessions with experienced climate adaptation professionals.

## Professional Affiliations and Service

- National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation**, Member 2019–Present
- Association for Conflict Resolution: Environment & Public Policy**, Member 2019–Present
- University Network for Collaborative Governance**, Member 2019–Present
- American Society of Adaptation Professionals**, Member 2017–Present
- Charlottesville Chapter, Citizens’ Climate Lobby**, Co-Leader and Member 2018–2021

## National Fellowships, Awards, and Research Grants

- Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellowship** 2017–2018
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** 2014–2017
- National Audubon Society Toyota Together Green Fellowship** 2013
- Udall Foundation Scholarship** 2011, 2010

## Selected Publications

### *Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters*

- Gladfelter, S.** (2021). Artificial Glaciers and Ice Stupas: The Contemporary Remaking of Ladakh’s Place-Based Practices of Water Storage as Modern “Solutions” to Climate Change. In R. Beszterda, J. Bray, & E. Williams-Oerberg (Eds.), *New Perspectives on Modern Ladakh: Fresh Discoveries and Continuing Conversations in the Indian Himalaya*. (pp. 45-72). Toruń, Poland: The Nicolaus Copernicus University Press.
- Gladfelter, S.** (2020). Displacing Disasters: The politics of localized struggles to (re)position river training infrastructure and (re)distribute vulnerability along Nepal’s lower Karnali riverbanks. *Studies in Nepali History and Society*, 25 (1), 111-142.
- Gladfelter, S.** (2018). The politics of participation in community-based early warning systems: Building resilience or precarity through local roles in disseminating disaster information? *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 30, 120-131. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2018.02.022>.

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- Wilson, A., **Gladfelter, S.**, Williams, M., Shahi, S., Baral, P., Armstrong, R., & Racoviteanu, A. (2017). High Asia: The international dynamics of climate change and water security. *Journal of Asian Studies*, 76 (2), 457-480. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021911817000092>.
- Gladfelter, S.** & Mason, R J. (2012). Beyond Boundaries: An assessment of the Yosemite National Park Geotourism Initiative. *Tourism Planning & Development*, 9 (4), 355-368. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21568316.2012.726262>.

## *Research Reports and Professional Writing*

- Gladfelter, S.** & Stoner, A.N. (2021, August). [The Impacts of COVID-19 on Service Delivery in the Northern Neck: Barriers, Lessons, & Opportunities for Increased Resilience](#). Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, University of Virginia.
- Gladfelter, S.** & Yonnetti, E. (2018, March 11). [Ladakh's Artificial Glaciers, Ice Stupas, and other attempts to survive a warming planet](#). *Tibet Himalaya Initiative*, University of Colorado Boulder.
- Gladfelter, S.** (2017, October 13). [Training rivers, training people: Interrogating the making of disasters and politics of response in Nepal's lower Karnali River Basin](#). *Flood Resilience Portal*.
- Gladfelter, S.** (2016, August). [Anticipating disaster: Local dependence on formal climate information vs. traditional ways of knowing](#). *Center for Science & Technology Policy Research*, CU Boulder.
- Venkateswaran, K., MacClune, K., & **Gladfelter, S.** (2016). [Risk Nexus: What can be learned from the Columbia and Charleston floods 2015?](#) PERC Report. *Zurich American Insurance Company*.

## *Articles and Op-Eds for Popular Audiences*

- [Pipeline CSI: A Volunteer Army of Citizen Scientists is Watching Pipeline Construction and Safeguarding Waterways](#). *Blue Ridge Outdoors*. April 2019.
- [Saucony Creek Brewing Co. from "Farm to Pint" to Watershed](#). *Berks County Living*. March 27, 2014.
- [The state of the Hudson: Seeking vision in Peter Seeger's wake](#). *Matador Network*. February 25, 2014.
- [Elephant Valley Project: Rehabilitating Cambodia's Asian elephants](#). *Matador Network*. June 28, 2013.
- [Beyond Angkor: Highlights of the undiscovered Cambodia](#). *Jax Fax Magazine*. May 27, 2013.
- [A wind-win for Maryland and a beacon for the bay](#). *The Baltimore Sun*. April 14, 2013.
- [From poachers to tour guides: The story of a Cambodian ecovillage](#). *Matador Network*. March 8, 2013.
- [All you need to know to trek the Manaslu Circuit in Nepal](#). *Matador Network*. January 2, 2013.
- [Sustainability certificate to promote green in curriculum](#). *The Temple News*. November 16, 2009.
- [Sustainable Living Event](#). *Pennsylvania Magazine*. September/October 2008.
- [The disposal dilemma](#). *The Baltimore Sun*. September 4, 2008.